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A RESEARCH ON THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN THE HISTORY OF TURKISH PEOPLE

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Abstract

In the article, information is given about when foreign language education started in Turkish people. The primary, secondary and high school curricula of the Russian language are researched in tables. It was determined when and where the Russian language was first systematically taught in Turks. The reasons for teaching were researched. The events of the Republican period were listed with dates and focused on the tendency to the Russian language both in the private sector and in government institutions. Information was given on the situation and development of the Russian language in higher education.

Keywords: Russian Language, Turkish Language, Ottoman State, Education.

1. Introduction

As in every nation, the tendency to learn a foreign language in Turks dates back to ancient times. Turkic people gave importance to learning a foreign language even before they accepted the religion of Islam. It continued even more after the acceptance of Islam by the Turks.

In the first establishment and rise of the Turkish States such as the Seljuks and Ottomans, education was given in the madrasas (Muslim schools) after the Sıbyan (primary education) (Akyüz, Türk Eğitim Tarihi, 69) along with the religion-oriented courses in history, geography, astronomy, mathematics, etc. lessons have been taught. Children of the elite were educated in Enderun and equivalent schools.

In the Seljuk and Ottoman States, instead of teaching Arabic and Persian as foreign languages, some disciplines were taught in these languages. It was not considered a foreign language. Teaching a western language as a foreign language (French) During the renewal period of the Ottoman state, Mühendislikhane-i Bahri-i Hümayûn[1] and Mühendislik-i Berri-i Hümayûn[2] are seen (Akyüz, 144). In 1842, English was compulsory, and French was taught as an elective in the military naval school (Akyüz, 144).

The language of education in Tıphane-i Âmire and Cerrahhane-i Mamure[3], which was opened in 1827, started as Italian and later changed to French. (Akyüz, 146).

2. Russian language in the Ottoman Empire

With the rapid growth of Russian Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries, active activity in the military field began. Dialogues between the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire developed and Russian language began to be taught officially in military schools in 1883-1884. It is still officially taught in military schools in today's Turkey (Aykut, 20; Юнал, 458).

Until the 19th century, there was no interest in learning western languages in the Ottoman Empire. Fener Greeks, Armenians and Jews carried out the translation works of the state in Istanbul. In the 19th century, a translation room was opened in the Bâb-ı Âli[4], and the French language was taught to Turkish youth.(Юнал, 460)

2.1. Education System in the Ottoman State

We can gather schools in three different classes in the Ottoman Empire. Muslim children's schools, Minority schools and Foreigners' schools.

1. Schools attended by Muslim children were opened with the foundation system. According to D'Ohsson, the foundation system began during the time of Osman Gazi, the first founder of the Ottoman State (D'Ohsson, 2020). It continued in the form of the Sıbyan school, which is today's primary school. There were schools providing secondary and high school education,

[1] It is a technical school that was opened in 1773 during the Ottoman Empire, with the aim of developing the shipyard and military navy and training the people of the shipyard. For the first time, blackboards and desks were placed in classrooms at school. https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%BChendishane-i_Bahr-i_H%C3%BCm%C3%A2yun

[2] Founded in Istanbul in 1795; Military school that trains artillerymen and engineers for the Ottoman army. https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%BChendishane-i_Berr%C3%AE-i_H%C3%BCm%C3%A2y%C3%BBn

[3] Medical school

[4] Bâb-ı Âli, or in its simplified form, Babıali is the name given to the palace of the grand vizier during the Ottoman Empire. https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/B%C3%A2b-%C4%B1_%C3%82li

which were the continuation of the Sıbyan school. Fatih Sultan Mehmet Sahn-ı Seman opened the madrasahs and education equivalent to a university began. Thus, it was included in the professional staff training curriculum. It has been determined that the number of madrasas providing middle, high school and university education in Istanbul between the XV-XIX centuries is 500. It is said to be common all over the country. (İslam Ansiklopedisi s.519). Languages other than Arabic and Persian were not taught in madrasahs.

2. Schools for non-Muslim (Greek, Armenian, Jewish) children who were citizens of the Ottoman State were run through foundations they opened among themselves (Vahapoğlu 57). With the annexation of Istanbul to the borders of the Ottoman Empire, Fatih Sultan Mehmet encouraged the ethnic groups within the borders of the state to keep their own languages, religions, cultures and traditions alive. These schools taught in another foreign language besides Ottoman and their own ethnic language (Akyüz 103).

3. Foreign schools were opened by missionaries. The first foreign school was established in the Ottoman Empire when the French opened a school next to the Saint-Benoit church in November 1583 (Akyüz 105). The first missionary school of the Americans was opened in Beirut in 1824 (Akyüz 105). Non-Muslim students from all nationalities studied in missionary schools. Muslim children were also educated in such schools, with the thought that they gave a better education and taught the foreign language well (Юнал, 460).

2.2. Russian Schools in the Ottoman Empire

The relationship between Turkic and Slavic peoples dates back to ancient times, since they are border neighbors to each other (Юнал, 2004). Sources show that the first diplomatic relationship between the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Tsardom began in 1492. Michail Plescheyev (the first ambassador) was appointed as the ambassador to Istanbul by the Russian Tsarist in 1497 and now all decisions have been made by these official institutions (Kurat, 117-118).

Russians opened hospitals, churches, accommodation places and schools for Christian pilgrims to help the Orthodox in the Ottoman State (Mutlu, 78-79). Thanks to these established institutions, the Russian language was taught to the non-Muslim people.

Russian schools have been the institution where Russian language teaching is taught most effectively, widely and systematically. The number of Russian schools was determined as 87

in 1902. (Mutlu, 84). Now let's try to give the leading schools, the places they opened and their managers.

Table 1: Russian Schools in Istanbul

Russian schools in Istanbul			
Location of the School	**Year of foundation**	**Name of the School and Association to which it is Affiliated**	**Owner and Director**
Beyoğlu, Humbaracı Slope, Topçu cul-de-sac Building 8	1891	Russian School (up to 8 years old)	Mösyö Ospenski
Beyoğlu, Tercüman street, Building 10		Russian School	Mösyö Glaçif
Beyoğlu, Tower gate Hoca Ali Mah. Building 13		Russian Pastor School	

Girls and boys were educated in these schools. How many students in total and how many teachers work in total can be seen in the records (Mutlu 93).

Table 2: Russian Schools in Hüdavendigar

Russian Schools in Hüdavendigar			
Location of the School	**Year of foundation**	**Name of the School and Association to which it is Affiliated**	**Owner and Director**
Bursa, Setbaşı, Armenian Quarter.	1887 (Hicri1304)	Russian School	Mösyö David Kalantaryan

Table 3: Russian Schools in Jebel-i Lebanon

Russian Schools in Jebel-i Lebanon			
Location of the School	**Year of foundation**	**Name of the School and Association to which it is Affiliated**	**Owner and Director**
Outside of Jerusalem, in the building called Moskofiye	September 5, 1898	Russian School in Palestine Russian Orthodox Society	Director Madam Hilin Aleksiyef
Jerusalem, Town of Beth-ul-lahm	November 5, 1900	Russian School in Palestine Russian Orthodox Society	Director Elizabet Kölobef

Jerusalem, Baitul Cala Town	October 1, 1900	Russian School in Palestine Russian Orthodox Society	Director Elizabet Kölobef
Jerusalem, Baitul Cala Town	October 1, 1900	Russian School in Palestine Russian Orthodox Society	Director Elizabet Kölobef
Jerusalem, Bayt al-Sahur Village	October 1, 1887	Russian School in Palestine Russian Orthodox Society	Director Elizabet Kölobef

In 1902, there were 45 Russian schools in different towns and towns of the Beirut Province, 27 Russian schools in the Syrian Province, 10 in the Jebel-i Lebanon Governorate, and 5 Russian schools in Jerusalem (Mutlu 94). The students studying are Ottoman citizens who belong to the Russian and Orthodox sects.

The regions where the Russians mostly opened schools are around Syria, Lebanon and Beirut. Iranians opened schools around Baghdad and European countries opened schools in different regions (Юнал, 462).

The situation of the schools opened by foreigners and non-Muslims was discussed a lot during the Lausanne Peace negotiations. It was decided to comply with the regulation to be issued by the Republic of Turkey. A regulation was enacted on all foreign and minority schools being secular, not making propaganda against Turkey's national interests, history, geography and Turkish lessons being taught by Turkish teachers and supervised by Turkish inspectors.

3. Foreign Language in the Period of the Republic of Turkey

With the proclamation of the Republic on October 29, 1923, the existence of the Ottoman Empire was ended and a new system was built in its place. In the country where the literacy rate is not even 10 per cent, the first area that the new administration did and focused on was undoubtedly education. With a law enacted on March 3, 1924 (Tevhidi Tedrisat (teaching union)), all schools in the Republic of Turkey were connected to the Ministry of National

Education. From now on, educational affairs began to be managed from a single source (Akyüz 327).

In the Republican period, it was given importance to learn Western culture closely. In 1940 and 1941, an arrangement was made again, and Latin language was taught for 5 hours a week, in addition to a western language (5 hours a week) as a foreign language in high schools (Akyüz 354).

Table 4: Weekly Course Hours in the 1937-1938 Academic Year

LESSONS	**CLASSES**					
	MIDDLE SCHOOL			**HIGH SCHOOL**		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
Turkish language	5	4	4	--	--	--
History	2	2	2	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2	2	2	1
Math	5	4	4	5	4	2
Science and Chemistry	--	--	3	2	2	1
Physical	--	3	--	2	2	1
Biology	--	2	3	--	--	--
Foreign language	5	4	4	5	5	5
Psychology	--	--	--	--	2	--
Literature	--	--	--	3	3	5

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During the Republican period, 5 hours a week were allocated to foreign language teaching (Akyüz 354).

After the Second World War, the military and political mobility in the international arena and the rapid development in technology increased the need for foreign languages. In 1955, new high schools were established under the name of college, where a course was taught in a foreign language. With the increasing interest in such schools, its name was changed to Anatolian High School in 1975 and it was expanded to other parts of the country. In the high schools in question, students are taught language preparation courses for 1 year. Students who graduated from these schools were successful in the university entrance exam and had the advantage of knowing a foreign language well. Schools attracted the attention of parents (Akyüz 356).

3.1. Russian Language as a Foreign Language in Higher Education

Reforms in Higher Education continued rapidly. The name of Darül Fünunlar (established on 23 July 1846), which provides higher education education, was changed, and the concept of university in the west began to enter. On August 1, 1933, it was renamed Istanbul University and many foreign professors were given job opportunities. The School of Foreign Languages (later renamed the Department of Foreign Languages in 1983) was opened within the body of Istanbul University. German, French and English were taught here.

In terms of being the language of a strong Russian Empire and then having many different republics in the Soviet Union, the Russian language has also carried out language reforms within itself and emerges as a strong foreign language (Şahin, 18).

Slavic Languages and Literatures was opened within the Western Languages and Literatures at Istanbul University. In the 1992-1993 academic year, the Department of Russian Language and Literature began to serve in Slavic Languages and Literatures, which are inactive compared to other Western languages. The preparatory department was opened in 2001-2002 in order to better teach the Russian language and to train qualified personnel. Along with the preparatory course, there are also Master's and Doctorate programs in the department, which has a total undergraduate period of 5 years.

Faculties and higher schools continuing under different names were gathered under the roof of Ankara University in 1946. By the order of Atatürk, the Faculty of Language, History and Geography was opened in 1935 and Slavic Languages Departments were included in it. At the invitation of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the famous Turcologist Karl Menges gave Russian lessons between 1937-1940. With the increase of qualified personnel who can teach the Russian language, the Department of Russian Language and Literature was opened in 1965.

In the following years, Selçuk University (in Konya) in 1992-1993, Erciyes University (in Kayseri) in 1994-1995 and in addition to state universities such as Gazi University, Caucasus University, Anadolu University, Fatih University, Okan University, Beykent University and Yeditepe University respectively. Russian Language and Literature Departments and master's programs were opened in foundation universities such as the University. The number of teaching staff is increasing day by day. In order to train qualified personnel, the state has recruited a large number of personnel through the ÖYP (Instructor Training Program) program and is trying to raise their scientific degrees and sending them to various universities in the country and abroad.

Russian Language and Literature departments have been opened in some universities in Turkey and although they are ready to accept students, they cannot accept students because they have difficulty in finding sufficient number of doctoral staff. Apart from these, the number of universities in Turkey is increasing day by day. Elective Russian language courses are taught in almost all universities. Lecturers who meet the norms required by the state have the opportunity to find a job even without a doctorate (Гусева, Юнал, 114-117).

3.2. Russian Language in Secondary Education

Maximum importance is given to the dissemination of the Russian language in secondary education schools. Secondary and high school schools in Turkey are very diverse. In other words, Science High Schools, Social Sciences High Schools, Hotel Management and Tourism High Schools and so on. In 2005, it was decided to teach Russian lessons in 10 schools in Turkey for trial and initial purposes. Teachers with sufficient pedagogical competence began to work in these schools. The schools where foreign language is most needed and given priority by the Ministry of National Education are Hotel Management and Tourism High Schools. Children studying at this school have the chance to practice what they have learned. The fact

that professional people who speak foreign languages serve in tourism regions increases the quality of the state and provides serious income to the economy (Karacan, 2012).

Table 5 Weekly Hours of Russian Language in The Hotel Management and Tourism Schools

HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM HIGH SCHOOL			
CLASSES	Required (Weekly)	Practical (Weekly)	Total (Weekly)
9	6 h.	---	6 h.
10	4 h.	5 h.	9 h.
11	4 h.	3 h.	8 h.
12	4 h.	2 h.	6 h.

The Ministry of National Education wants the Russian language to be popularized in all hotel and tourism high schools throughout the country. It is also taught as an elective course in private schools, but it could not be expanded to the desired extent because there were not enough course materials, textbooks and Russian teachers with pedagogical formation. In 2008, the Ministry of National Education sent a letter to the lecturers working at universities in Turkey, asking them to prepare textbooks suitable for Turkish students and the Turkish education system.

3.3. Russian Language in Economics and Scientific Studies

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Turkey entered into a tight economic dialogue with the former Soviet countries. Textile, leather, fruit, vegetables, household goods, construction materials, etc. sells. Turkey buys gas, oil, forest products and coal from other countries especially from Russia.. Trade between the two countries and other former Soviet countries and Turkey continues to grow exponentially with each passing day.. In the economy sector, there is a need for personnel who know the Russian language well.

The scientific world in Turkey is closely interested in the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the opening of the doors. Especially sociologists, economic circles, engineering sciences, chemistry, physics, mathematics and history scientists are interested in articles and works written in Russian. Since they do not know the Russian language, they cannot benefit from the works written in Russian. Middle-aged scientists recommend that their students do a minor or double major in the Russian language, as it takes a long time to learn a foreign language and it takes a long time to read and understand scientific texts in that language.

4, Conclusion

In the History of Turks, Russian language schools were opened in many cities. These schools were opened by Ottoman citizens, who were a minority. The Russian language was first taught in schools opened by minorities. The translation works of the state were done by Ottoman citizens and non-Muslims.

With the establishment of the republican regime, educational affairs began to be managed from one hand, and teaching a Western language was based.

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the job of raising qualified personnel came to the fore, and the fastest and most practical way to do this was to open Russian Language and Literature Departments.

There has been a need to train personnel who can speak Russian for large business areas, and for this, Russian language has been taught in secondary and high school schools.

Russian language has started to be taught intensively in Tourism and Hotel Management schools.

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